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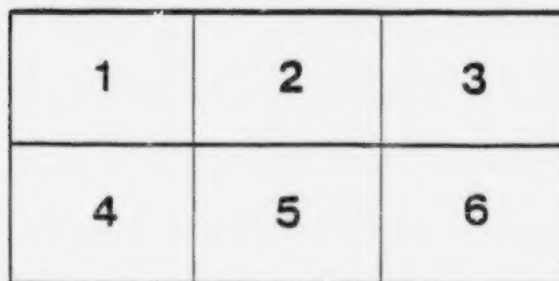
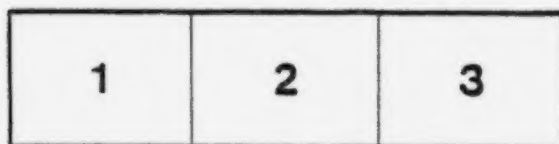
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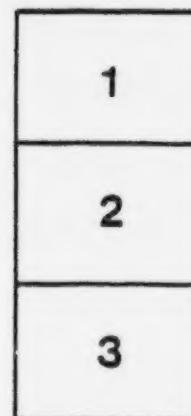
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A VIEW
OF THE
RISE, PROGRESS,
AND
PRESENT STATE
OF THE
Newfoundland Fishery,
WITH
SOME OBSERVATIONS
ON ITS
GOVERNMENT,
CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT,
REVENUE,
AND
EXPENDITURE.

OCT 3 1828

POOLE:
PRINTED BY MOORE AND SYDENHAM.

1828.

TO
BENJAMIN LESTER LESTER, Esq. M. P.

THIS VIEW

OF THE
RISE, PROGRESS, AND PRESENT STATE

OF THE

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERY,

IS WITH GREAT PERSONAL ESTEEM, AND
A HIGH REGARD FOR THE ZEAL AND
ABILITY WITH WHICH HE HAS UNIFORMLY
ENDEAVOURED TO PROMOTE ITS INTERESTS,

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED BY

THE AUTHOR.

A VIEW, &c.

NEWFOUNDLAND, one of the earliest discovered, is yet perhaps the least perfectly known of the British North American possessions, and although it has from time to time engaged much of the attention of Government, still its true character seems to have been little understood, or at least not to have had due consideration in framing and adopting arrangements for its government. The causes of this manifest want of correct information on the subject are to be traced to the discordant testimony of parties, whose conflicting interests have prompted them to give contradictory views of the soil, climate, and local capabilities of the island, and of the social, moral, and commercial relations of its inhabitants, as best suited their several purposes, either to support or oppose such measures as have been recommended to, or deemed necessary to be adopted by His Majesty's Government, and the imperfect information of official men, whose transitory acquaintance with the island, acquired during their limited periodical residences, did not qualify them to take an enlarged view of the subject.

Newfoundland, like every other country peopled from a parent state, has progressively changed its condition and become of greater importance in the scale of national possession, but has still preserved its original character of a *fishery*, and the few legislative Acts for its regulation and government have been grounded on that view of it.

The history and progress of the adventurers who first resorted to the island after its discovery, are necessarily involved in obscurity; that their object and pursuits were the catching of fish there seems to be no reason to doubt, as no traces of ancient settlement or cultivation are known to exist in any part of it; the earliest authentic records show that a fishery was prosecuted on the coasts of the island by merchant adventurers, who annually fitted out vessels in England and furnished them with supplies of provisions, tackle and fishermen, with which they proceeded to Newfoundland in the spring of the year, and having caught and cured their cargoes, returned with them in the autumn. In this state of the fishery, only two classes of persons were engaged, the merchant adventurer and his immediate servants, all of whom returned to this country at the end of the fishing season. In progress of time a third class arose consisting of fishermen and servants, who from choice or accidental circumstances remained on the island during the winter, and by degrees became settlers and resident fishermen, distinguished by the name of planters, and the founders of a now extended population.

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By degrees the merchant adventurers formed fishing establishments in the principal and most convenient harbours, still continuing to fit out their ships in England, and to carry out the annual supply of provisions, stores, and fishermen, and finding in a course of years that it was more advantageous for them to purchase from the planter the produce of his fishing voyage, than to employ themselves, fishermen and servants to catch and cure fish, they in great measure discontinued the practice, and the planters and *their* servants have become the principal fish catchers.

In the early stages of the fishery a few simple local laws or regulations were sufficient for its government and to preserve the relation between master and servant, and although they may have been, and probably were, rude and barbarous in their construction and operation, still the fishery prospered and increased, and we find little or no legislative notice of the island until nearly two hundred years after its discovery, when the Act of 10th and 11th WILLIAM III.—“to encourage the trade to Newfoundland” was passed—this Act was founded on the ancient policy of discouraging residency, and considering the Newfoundland, to be *a ship fishery*, and notwithstanding the evidently increasing population, the same views influenced the legislature nearly fourscore years after, in passing the Act of 15th GEO. III., the object of which also was to discourage residency; and in fact the same principle has in some measure prevailed in all the legislative acts on the subject almost to the present

day, and this discordant policy has naturally been attended with a want of permanency and consistency in the measures of the Government. Newfoundland has however long ceased to be a ship fishery, and has become a resident, and if fostered and encouraged, still a valuable fishery. Out of this order of things arose a fourth class of persons, not actually engaged, but interested in, the fishery, *a certain portion* of the resident merchants, and the tradesmen of St. John's, the chief town, and the seat of government of the island, who keep stores and supply those engaged in the fishery, and purchase from them their produce.

This latter class of persons having no fishing establishments and being no otherwise interested than in the purchase and sale of the produce of the fishery, and the necessary supplies for prosecuting it, are opposed in great measure both in their views and interests to the merchant fishing establishments at the Out-harbours, and it has been for some years their favorite object to magnify the importance of the town and trade of St. John's, and to consider it the grand emporium of the island, of which the Out-harbours are only subordinate branches; and in furtherance of these views they have lost no opportunity of urging the propriety, and even necessity of granting to the island, all the privileges of a Colony with a legislative House of Assembly, a measure, the most ruinous to it as a fishery, that could be devised; this truth the advocates of the measure cannot deny, and they have therefore in support of their favorite plan had recourse

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to exaggerated representations of the local capabilities, the soil and climate, endeavouring to impress on the mind of the public and the government, that Newfoundland, may ere long, become a great agricultural country. The fallacy of such statements is too obvious to those well acquainted with the island, to need refutation or remark, were it not that they are calculated to mislead those who know nothing of Newfoundland but from the report of others.

The cultivation of Newfoundland to any important profitable extent, is opposed by natural obstacles that are insurmountable, a thickly wooded country, and a scanty soil every where incumbered with huge rocks, that would never repay the enormous labour and expence of clearing, and a climate uncongenial for the production of the fruits of the earth. And yet the Newspapers of this country have recently represented upon the authority of the *Newfoundland Public Ledger*, that "Newfoundland (hitherto considered barren and sterile) is soon likely to become a great agricultural country, under the auspices of the present Governor, who having himself put the plough in requisition, has "by the force of his example so stimulated others, that there are now to be seen on every hand corn fields springing up *as if by magic*, in the place of woods and forests."

Those acquainted with the country know such representations to be altogether fallacious, and consider them to be mischievous—that the Governor may have

promoted and encouraged the cultivation of the soil in the immediate vicinity of St. John's, is perhaps not to be disputed, but that within the short period of his government such extraordinary changes have taken place as those represented in the statement alluded to, is not the fact, and it is well known that for many years previous to the appointment of the present Governor, individuals had at great labour and expence devoted their utmost skill and attention in vain, to attain the object which the *Newfoundland Public Ledger* endeavours to make the public believe had been accomplished in the short space of two years by this *mighty magician*.

If more unquestionable proofs were wanting, the unfitness of Newfoundland for the purposes of cultivation might be inferred from the circumstance that it never has been cultivated—if the soil and climate are so well adapted for cultivation as the *Newfoundland Public Ledger* would have us believe, how has it happened that with a population of 90,000, dependent on other countries for food, cultivation has never been resorted to as a source of supply—the inhabitants of Newfoundland are not insensible to the advantages of a productive soil, and are as much alive to their own interests and comforts as the people of any other country, and it is a known fact that there have been individuals who have in vain endeavoured to obtain subsistence for themselves and their families from the soil, in preference to the pursuits of the fishery.

Newfoundland was originally attempted to be settled by means of Charters granted by the Crown, it being hoped that individuals would in this manner be induced to improve it, and to promote the public advantage through the medium of their private interest. Two hundred and fifty years have elapsed since the first charter was granted—four other charters were subsequently granted, the last of them after a lapse of fifty-five years—it cannot reasonably be believed, that if the project was feasible, some of the companies to whom these charters were granted, or some of their successors, would not have resorted to cultivation as a mean of improvement and a source of profit and supply, and that at the present moment the only appearance of cultivation which Newfoundland exhibits, should be confined to gardens and spots of potato ground which the inhabitants have cleared near their residences, except at St. John's and some other principal settlements where the concourse of inhabitants has given occasion to the feeding a few heads of cattle in the woods, the enclosing a few meadows, and the raising small quantities of oats and barley, the whole calculated rather to gratify the experimentalist, than to afford any effectual supply.

The government of the island, if it may be so called, was for a long series of years more remarkable for the discordant policy and inconsistency of its measures and the feebleness of its authority, than for its wisdom or energy, and it is not surprising that it should have been so when it is considered that the authorities

of this country, from whom it emanated, were too often misled and embarrassed by the contradictory representations of interested parties, each striving to circumvent the other — by merchants and fishermen on one hand, and planters and inhabitants on the other — under such circumstances the High Court of Admiralty, the Star Chamber, the Council of State, the Privy Council, and the Lords Commissioners for Trade, all in their turn, granted commissions and issued orders which were obeyed or disregarded as it suited the views or inclinations of fishing admirals; justices, naval commanders, and others, whose duty it was to carry them into execution.

Early in the seventeenth century a commission was issued by the High Court of Admiralty, authorizing juries to be empannelled and enquiries to be made respecting abuses and disorders committed among the fishermen upon the coast; and from this period the commanders of the King's ships who were sent out as commodores upon the station appear to have exercised some authority in the government; and in the year 1708 a commission was issued and directed to be annually prepared to the commodore, to command at land during his stay in those parts; and in the year 1729 a commission was granted to the captain of His Majesty's ship *Squirrel*, by which he was appointed governor of the island.

These were the steps which led to the subsequent establishment of a *Naval Government*, of which

the admiral and for the time being title and appointment better acquainted with the circumstances of which the affair until the year 18 ed in the person

The admiral of the fishery was as the government before observedtain of a King abuses; but they ever remain in the Star Chamber in fishery, by which be brought to E and the Mayors towns, were to take and the Vice-Admiral Dorset, Devon, offenders at sea. The admiral was ordered in way of judicature Newfoundland done; and the admiral seems to have ruled, too often the the naval comm

the admiral and commander in chief upon the station for the time being was constituted the head with the title and appointment of governor—a form of government better adapted perhaps, than any other to the circumstances of a *fishery*; and under the authority of which the affairs of Newfoundland were conducted until the year 1824, when a civil governor was appointed in the person of Sir THOMAS COCHRANE.

The administration of justice in the early period of the fishery was of the same rude unsettled character as the government. In the year 1615, as has been before observed, a commission was granted to the captain of a King's ship, authorizing an enquiry into abuses; but the proceedings of that early period must ever remain in great obscurity. In the year 1633 the Star Chamber issued orders for better regulating the fishery, by which it was directed that offenders should be brought to England and tried by the Earl Marshal; and the Mayors of Southampton, Weymouth, and other towns, were to take cognizance of offenders upon land; and the Vice-Admirals in the counties of Southampton, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall, were to proceed against offenders at sea. In the year 1670 the Attorney General was ordered to present to the Board of Trade *some way of judicature for the determining of causes at Newfoundland*, but this does not appear to have been done; and the administration of justice, such as it was, seems to have remained in the hands of fishing admirals, too often the greatest aggressors themselves, and the naval commanders, until the year 1729, when the

Governor was authorized to appoint justices, which was accordingly done ;—this measure was however violently opposed by the merchants and others in the island, and a contest for power arose, between the fishing admirals and justices, which continued to perplex the government for many years ; in the year 1750 a commission of Oyer and Terminer was issued for trying offenders in Newfoundland instead of sending them to England. The judicial affairs of the island appear now to have gone on quietly and without any interruption of much importance for many years ; and the administration of justice remained with the commanders of the King's ships, who were appointed by the Governors with the title of *Surrogates*, and held courts and heard and determined causes of complaint, and in this way the authority of the Governor was exercised very beneficially : this form of judicial proceeding, although some objections have been made to it, and perhaps with reason, would still perhaps under proper regulations be the best adapted for a *fishery*, and certainly the least expensive. The Governor also held courts at St. John's to hear and determine causes in open court, and in the absence of the Governor and Surrogates, the courts of Session and Vice-Admiralty were occasionally resorted to. The Governor's courts were however discontinued in the year 1782, and in the year 1789 a court of Common Pleas was instituted by the then Governor, and judges appointed ; heavy complaints were made by the trade against the proceedings of this court, and in consequence a Bill was brought into Parliament and passed in the year

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1791, for instituting a court of civil jurisdiction, to continue in force for one year as an experiment, and the result was the passing another Bill in the year 1792, for establishing a court somewhat different from that of the preceding year.

By this last act power was given to the Governor, with the advice of the chief justice, "to institute courts of civil jurisdiction to be called *surrogate courts* in different parts of the island as occasion shall require," with power to hear and determine in a summary way all suits and complaints of a civil nature. And in this way the judicature of the island was conducted until the year 1824, when an Act for the better administration of justice in Newfoundland and for other purposes was passed, under the authority of which a superior court of judicature was instituted, to be held by a chief judge and two assistant judges to be appointed by His Majesty.

The civil establishment under the former form of *naval government*, did not exceed in its expences, the revenue of the island, amounting to about £13000 per annum, arising from the duties on importation of wine, spirits, and molasses, the Crown rents, and from licenses; the estimate annually voted by Parliament was about £12,000. The appointment of a civil Governor and the creation of judges and officers by the establishment of the new court of judicature under the Act of 5th Geo. IV., chap. 67, have very largely increased the civil expenditure, and it now

exceeds the revenue about £15,000 per annum, and a Bill was brought into Parliament in the last session (1827) to provide for the deficiency by imposing an additional duty on rum and spirits and a duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on all goods not already liable to duty imported into Newfoundland, but representations having been made to His Majesty's government that the fishery was not in a state to bear any further impositions, the measure was for the present abandoned, and the usual estimate for the year voted; it is however the intention of the government to resume the measure in the ensuing session of Parliament and to impose a tax upon the island, but of what nature and to what extent is not yet determined.

The principle, that every settlement, if an ancient one, ought to provide for its own civil expenditure, must be admitted, otherwise it is not worth the protection of the mother country; but the expenditure ought to be restrained within reasonable bounds, and to be such as the means of the settlement will enable it to provide for.

It is admitted that under the old form of naval government the expenditure was fully met by the revenue raised in the island, and that the excess is occasioned by the creation of new offices and other circumstances under the new establishment, the detail of which includes among other charges, an annual allowance to the sheriff of £4,000, to enable him to pay police officers, the expences of the different courts,

the support of the poor, &c. ; a charge of £900 for the conveyance and expence of the judges on the circuits ; a sum of £2,000 per annum for the employment of the poor in the improvement of the streets and roads in St. John's and in the neighbourhood ; the sum of £2,300 for hire of a vessel for the use of the Governor, and £1,500 per annum for *additional* salaries to the judges and law officers.

Although it may be difficult to pronounce upon the necessity or expediency of this certainly heavy additional expenditure, it may yet be allowable to consider it in its bearing upon the fishery in its present state of depression, and to compare it with the civil expenditure in times of greater prosperity, as well as to enquire if the benefits to be derived from it are commensurate with the additional burden. It will not be denied that the fishery is in a state of depression, almost, if not altogether unprecedented; and that at a time when neither the resident fisherman with all the advantages of a reduction in the necessities of life afforded him by that enlightened policy that dictated the late salutary alteration in the navigation laws, can without difficulty support himself and his family by his labour, nor the merchant obtain a remunerating return for his outfit and supplies, it becomes an object of vital importance to avoid every expence not immediately called for, to promote the welfare of that fishery.

The large annual allowance to the sheriff, in which *possibly*, a considerable reduction might be safely made, includes the support of the poor, to whom it appears that a further sum of £2,000 is to be annually dispensed for their labour in the improvement of the streets and roads in St. John's and its neighbourhood—such improvements are no doubt gratifying to the inhabitants of St. John's, and would be creditable to them as a municipal body, but are by no means essential to the real interests of the fishery, or beneficial to the establishments of the out-harbours; by the population of which the heaviest portion of the burden must be borne, and to whom the advantages of the new roads and improved streets of the metropolitan town are not available. If the municipal authorities of *Liverpool* or any other large town in this country should think proper to improve their streets and roads for the purpose of employing their distressed poor, the motive, and the act, would be highly laudable, but surely it will not be contended that *Glasgow* and *Penzance* should be called upon to pay a part of the expence; if it be allowed (as it has been alledged) that a portion of the distressed poor annually assembled at St. John's, has been collected there from the out-harbours, still it would seem that £1,000 would be an ample allowance to be dispensed in the manner proposed for their relief, in addition to the fund placed at the disposal of the sheriff, except in years of extraordinary emergency, when the relief must of course be governed by the circumstances.

The conveyance and the expences of the Judges on the circuit, and the hire of a vessel for the use of the Governor, form a part of the increased civil expenditure, which it may be thought might with propriety be defrayed out of the public purse, when the saving in the navy estimates, occasioned by the superseding the naval government and the expence of ships of war on the station, is taken into consideration.

It would be premature, perhaps, to form an opinion upon the increased salaries of the judges and some other items of the additional expenditure to be provided for by taxation, until greater experience has been had of the new system of government and judicature, and some more decided proofs of advantage to the population by the measure. It is certain that the surrogate courts, which with all their imperfections, generally exercised their authority beneficially to the people, were conducted comparatively at little expence; and a large majority of the cases which are brought into a court of justice in Newfoundland are of a nature that may be best disposed of by a summary process, such as was practised by those courts; and it may therefore, perhaps, be with propriety questioned, whether the increased advantages are likely to compensate for the increased expence.

There is good reason to believe that the expenditure of the island will continue to increase; amongst other sources of expence there is a house for the Governor in progress of building, and to be finished on a scale that

must necessarily require a large sum, and the fitting up and furnishing of which in a correspondent stile must occasion further demands:—that such a building is requisite cannot be denied, if a Governor be required to keep up a vice-regal state, and to assume the manners of a court, and the splendor of sovereign authority; but under the old naval government, a comfortable, commodious, and respectable Government-house was deemed, and found, to be sufficient for the residence of the Admiral and Governor, who while he maintained with becoming dignity the honorable station in which he was placed, still avoided all unnecessary display, as being inconsistent with the character of the government of a fishing station.

The construction of roads, if persevered in, will be another fruitful source of future expenditure; good roads are no doubt desirable, when they can be attained with facility and made use of to advantage, in keeping up a communication between one town and another, or between town and country; but in such a country as Newfoundland, where the majority of the inhabitants are not settled in towns, but scattered along the coast in remote bays and harbours inaccessible except by sea, it is difficult to foresee what advantage they can derive from the construction of roads in the vicinity of St. John's, and perhaps a very few other principal settlements; for an idea that *has* been suggested of making roads to enable the Governor and judges to travel by land round the island, is too fanciful to be seriously entertained; and that of making

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three or four main roads from St. John's, to communicate with the interior, and with the heads of the great bays, is little less extravagant: for supposing it to be practicable and the roads made, to what profitable purpose could they be applied? It is understood that there are other objects in contemplation, which must add to the future expenditure, such as public markets—a new gaol—hospitals—and in due time, perhaps, a UNIVERSITY—all commendable improvements in suitable situations and in a state of society requiring them, and to which there can be no objection if the inhabitants of St. John's choose to indulge in them *at their own proper expence*, but not all of them it must be confessed such as one would expect to find in Newfoundland, in its present state of general depression.*

* Besides the additional expenditure in the Civil departments, the people must also look forward to an augmentation of the Ecclesiastical establishment of the Island, which they will be called upon to provide for. The Bishop of Nova Scotia since his late visitation has transmitted a report to Government, in which he represents the settlement to be in a lamentable state of deficiency in that particular, and it will therefore very probably be determined that new Churches must be built, and Ministers be provided for them.

The necessity of such a measure does not appear very evident to a common observer; in every principal bay and harbour there is already a Church, and provision made for the support of it, and for a Minister; and the population being composed, as in other countries, of a variety of religious sects, there are also numerous places of worship established and maintained by the different

The Newfoundland fishery, which by a train of events such as can never probably occur again, was raised during the latter part of the late war to a pitch of unusual prosperity, is now reduced to a state of depression, such as it scarcely ever before experienced. The causes of this reverse are to be traced, in the first instance, to those portions of the treaties entered into with France and America at the conclusion of the late war, by which certain rights of fishery were ceded to the subjects of those powers; in consequence of which they have successfully prosecuted the fisheries on the coast to a very considerable extent, and under advantages which the British fisherman does not enjoy. Both the French and American fishermen have great encouragements in the nature of bounties from their governments; they obtain all their articles of outfit

denominations of Christians, who do not conform to the established Church. The Clergymen of the establishment are a highly respectable body, and they concur in representing the religious concerns of the Island to be in a most favorable state; it does not appear therefore, that there is any real want of spiritual instruction. The erecting and maintaining the Churches have been principally at the cost of the inhabitants, and there are individuals who have thereby incurred very heavy expences: at a harbour in the northern part of Newfoundland, it was some years since determined to build a new Church, which was accordingly commenced, but proceeded slowly for want of funds, when an English Merchant, who had an establishment there, very liberally pledged himself to the Clergyman to have it completed, and from time to time he advanced money for the purpose, and there has been for some years and is still owing to him, a balance of £1038 on account of it.

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at a cheaper rate ; they have both a home market for their fish ; and in addition to their home consumption, have the markets of Spain, Italy, the West Indies, and South America, open to them upon equal terms with the British fisherman ; and the Americans have the further advantage of employment during the winter, and are not therefore like the British fisherman, compelled to charge the expence of the whole year upon the labour of a few months in the fishing season. It must therefore be allowed that the French and Americans, with all these advantages, are formidable competitors with the British fisherman in foreign markets open to each.

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Another cause of this reverse is to be found in the depreciated value of fish in foreign markets, and of fish oils in the home market ; that of the former is to be attributed chiefly to the excessive duties imposed on the article upon its importation into the ports of Spain and Italy, and particularly of the former, where the duties have for some years past operated as a virtual prohibition, in consequence of the inability of the inhabitants to purchase fish at a price proportionate to the heavy imposts ; the effect of this has been to overload the markets of Italy where the duties are also excessive, and those of Portugal, and the sales of fish in both countries have been ruinous to the adventurer.

The decline in the price of oils is to be attributed

in part to a decreased consumption arising from various causes, amongst which the substitution of coal gas as an artificial light is no doubt an important one. These causes of reverse are peculiar to the fishery, there are others in which it shares in common with the general commerce of the country.

Having thus shown the past and present state of the Newfoundland fishery, on the one hand elevated to an extraordinary degree of prosperity, and on the other depressed beyond all former example, it may be useful calmly to enquire what may best be done to afford it relief: the most obvious means would be, if any such means could be devised, to increase the value of its produce, and particularly of fish in foreign markets, and this object it is feared can only be obtained by a reduction of the duties: the subject has often been brought under the consideration of His Majesty's government, which has from time to time used its endeavours to procure some relaxation, but unfortunately hitherto without success, and it must be confessed there seems to be but little probability of its being soon accomplished; the object however should still be kept in view, and the government be solicited to continue its efforts in any arrangement with the governments of Spain and Italy, to obtain a reciprocity of that liberal policy which has marked the commercial regulations of this country with regard to foreign states.

The next most obvious means of relief, is *retrenchment in the expenditure of the island*, and to restrain it within those reasonable bounds that are suited to the circumstances of the fishery, and thereby to prevent the necessity of imposing any further burdens on the people, and to relieve them from so much of their existing burdens as may be consistent with the general good. The fisheries of other countries have the advantage of *positive* encouragement from their governments, and surely it cannot be too much to ask of the British government for its fisheries, the *negative* encouragement of *relief from taxation*. From the view that has been taken of the present state of the Newfoundland fishery, it is evident that it is not in a condition to bear additional imposts, and if this were not the fact, the impolicy of the measure is a powerful objection to it: the effect of duties upon the supplies for the fishery at Newfoundland would be to promote an illicit trade; and very soon to such an extent, that it would require the constant employment of a naval force to prevent and detect it, and it must be manifest that the expence of maintaining such a force would in great measure defeat the end proposed in imposing the duty. Another effect not less to be guarded against, is *that any duty that affects the Newfoundland fisherman, must, to the same extent, prove an additional bounty to his rivals the French and American fishermen.*

The subject is one of peculiar interest at the present crisis to the English merchant established at the out-harbours, who has at all times been represented as at least indifferent to the improvement of Newfoundland and the condition of the inhabitants, and this indifference has not been unfrequently imputed to mercenary motives—a charge not altogether forgotten in the present day—and in which the St. John's merchant has, perhaps, too readily joined, with what consistency may be doubted, as it is probable that self-interest is not a less powerful stimulant at St. John's than it is in England: it is the true policy of the merchant, as it is of the government, to foster and encourage the resident fisherman or planter—upon his labor and exertion the very existence of the fishery depends; and it is an incontrovertible truth that those have been the most flourishing times to the merchant, in which the industrious planter has been able to raise himself to independence and to support his family in comfort, and this the merchants of the present day do not hesitate to allow; in times past a less liberal feeling perhaps prevailed. To watch over and protect the civil rights of the planter, to relieve him as far as may be compatible with the general good from the burden of taxation, to ameliorate his condition by such encouragements as occasion may require and circumstances render practicable, must be the care of government, and by the exercise of that care the merchant must be benefited; for the prosperity of the merchant and the planter is so interwoven, that they must rise and fall

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together. It therefore behoves every class of persons
interested in the Newfoundland fishery, the St. John's
merchant, the out-harbour merchant, and the planter,
to unite their efforts for the common good, and to use
their most strenuous endeavours at the present moment
to obtain a well-regulated civil expenditure, restrained
within those moderate bounds that the means of the
fishery will enable it to provide for, *without further
taxation.*

FINIS.